



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

October 2017

JOY IN THE “CHILDREN OF GOD”

A Hindu teacher recently explained to me the important difference between “I” and “my”—how our “ownership” of people, things and ideas can get in the way of bliss in our lives. He actually used the word “bliss”! What a stunning idea! My letting-go of *my* stuff, *my* ideas, *my* way of doing things, *my* reputation, even *my* children leads to joy. Of course, he didn’t mean throw everyone and everything away, but to hold gently and beware of our tendency to think “mine.”

Both Jews and Christians believe that our children really belong to God. How would we parent differently if we viewed our children as gifts from God—not ours to own or mold, but ours to nurture as their foster parents on God’s behalf?

JOY IN THE MORNING...

Sunday mornings at 9:45AM, a delightful group of children gather in the new Community Room to practice for singing in the sanctuary. Remember hearing their sweet voices in worship? Julie Berk is their talented leader. Any child up through fifth grade can join—just show up. (Childcare provided for younger siblings starting at 9:30AM.)



making joyful noise
in Children’s Church



JOYFUL HUGS FOR PENNY’S 10TH

The children worked hard to trace their hugs on paper. Quite a scissor project! After they delivered their paper hugs (covered with messages for Penny) and their real hugs to her on October 1, they spelled out “YAY, PENNY!” with their bodies—including two backbends for lower case n’s. Quite a sight to see!

BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE REMODEL?

VOLUNTEER for Children’s Church for 45 minutes

Email kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org or use [Sign-up Genius](#)

For safety, a second adult must be with each group of children, so please pitch in.

If each parent comes a single Sunday, it will work!





INFO NIGHT FOR MID-HIGH PARENTS

For details about future activities, please come to the Fireplace Room, on Tuesday, October 24 from 7:00-8:30PM (childcare provided). Check out the new Youth Room. Hear about what's ahead—the classes, youth group, and Coming of Age Retreat in the spring. Share your ideas and concerns. Your input matters as we create the best program for your children. (Kids can come too.)

NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS?

Easy to earn! Kibbie and Patrick will eagerly sign off volunteer hours so our youth get the credit they deserve.

- Children and youth can usher any Sunday. Just show up and the delighted ushering team will be ready for their junior sidekicks to greet, hand out bulletins, and even pass out packets to visitors.
- High school youth can volunteer to help with the younger children (except on a second Sunday when they have Sixty Minutes).
- On first Sundays, even mid-high can help in the CE Building.
- On Wednesday nights, anyone can play with the children from our Iglesia (Latino church).
- And, there are always other projects at the church or in the neighborhood. Just let Kibbie know what sounds most appealing.



COUNTDOWN to SIXTY MINUTES

Mike Mullery's next fascinating "Sixty Minutes" is October 8 (and every second Sunday)—but only for high schoolers. Instead of going to church, the teens go to the Fireplace Room for energetic conversations. This Sunday's topic is manipulation by peers: in relationships, both friend and romantic; in sports; lying to get a peer in trouble and more. Should be lively!

PLANNING YOUR CALENDAR?

FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS, please add special weekends:

- **Confirmation Retreats** at Napa October 21-22 and April 27-28
Now for high schoolers only. They can attend as many weekends as desired.
One fall and one spring retreat are needed before confirmation.
- **Fall Youth Event** at Monte Toyon November 17-19
- **"Feb Camp"** at Monte Toyon February 17-19

FOR MID-HIGHERS, please add special weekends:

- **Mid-Winter Retreat** January 13-15
- **Coming of Age Retreat** at Napa April 21-22

DON'T FORGET MID-HIGH DATES:

Mid-High class every Sunday but the first;
Youth Group meets 1st and 3rd Sundays, at 6-7:30PM

